

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST
MEETING SUMMARY
MAY 25, 2006
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROBERT MEYERS @ (305) 350-0613**

Complaints

05-25: The Commission on Ethics granted the Advocate's motion to dismiss the complaint against Kelly Goeden, a former City of Miami Beach employee.

06-07: The Commission on Ethics found the complaint against South Miami Horace Feliu to be legally insufficient because the allegations fall outside the Ethics Commission's jurisdiction.

06-08: The Commission on Ethics approved the settlement agreement entered into between the Office of the Advocate and the Respondent Gerry Goodman in which Respondent Goodman pled no contest to three of the six counts contained in the complaint that alleged he violated multiple provisions of the Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices when Respondent ran for office in Sunny Isles Beach in 2005. Further, Mr. Goodman agreed to pay a fine of \$1,250 and the Ethics Commission dismissed the remaining three counts.

06-09: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the two count complaint filed against Surfside Town Commissioner Howard Weinberg who was accused of violating the Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices when Respondent ran for Town Commission in 2006. The Ethics Commission found the first count to be legal insufficient and found no probable cause existed regarding the second count.

06-10: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint against Respondent Abednigo Hernandez, Captain the Miami-Dade Fire Department, finding the allegations contained in the complaint were outside of the Ethics Commission's jurisdiction.

06-12: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint against the Citizens of West Dade PAC, finding the Ethics Commission has no jurisdiction over the actions of political action committees.

06-14: The Commission on Ethics granted the Advocate's motion to dismiss the complaint against Opa-Locka City Manager Jannie Beverly, based on the Ethics Commission's prior decision in the case of City Clerk Deborah Irby, which arose out of the same set of facts as Ms. Beverly's complaint.

06-15: The Commission on Ethics granted the Advocate's motion to dismiss the complaint against former South Miami Mayor Mary Scott Russell, who was charged with violating her official position when she used City funds from her discretionary account to pay for her son's airfare to accompany the former mayor to Tallahassee for "Dade Days." The Advocate moved to dismiss the complaint due to the fact Mr. Russell reimbursed the City for this expense.

Opinions

06-37: The Ethics Commission opined that a counselor in the county's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Department may contract with Miami-Dade County in her private capacity as a business owner as long as her company does not contract with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Further, the employee must receive permission for this outside employment and annually file the outside employment disclosure forms.

06-38: The Ethics Commission opined that the parents of a County Commissioner may purchase property from a county lobbyist and a county vendor as long as it is an arms length transaction and the Commissioner's parents are paying fair market value for the property.

06-39: The Ethics Commission opined that a no conflict of interest is created if a company owned by the spouse of a County employee becomes certified by the Department of Business Development and the company may contract with the county as long as the firm does not work on any project connected to the GOB bond program. The County employee works in the Office of the County Manager as the Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs for the GOB Bond Program.

06-40: The Ethics Commission opined that the Department of Elections may use the voter identification number to verify contributions that are submitted pursuant to the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund when the contributors' addresses are exempt from disclosure by Florida law. Further, the Commission opined that corporate contributions that only provide a P.O. Box should not count as a qualifying contribution as defined in the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund Ordinance.